Statement of DG of GATT

*254. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :†

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently reported statement of the Director General, GATT, that the large and broad-based package of market liberation was within reach; and

(b) if so, what is Government's information about the package ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) :

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Director General GATT, Mr. Peter Sutherland made this statement at the Trade Neogitations Committee meeting held on 19 November, 1993. This has since been overtaken by subsequent events with the conclusion of substantive negotiations on the Uruguay Round Agreements on 15 December, 1993. However, work on the verification of schedules of concessions on tariffs market access offers in services and lists of commitments in agriculture is likely to continue until the end of March 1994. Therefore, the final package will emerge only at that time.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Madam, has any representation from the Agriculture Ministry been received ? If received, what are its contents ? Unless this representation is properly received and considered in the month of March, 1994, proper representation cannot be made. Therefore, could the hon. Minister explain the contents of the memorandum or the representation of the Agriculture Ministry ?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : Madam, the views of the Agriculture Minister are well known and these views have been taken into consideration while the whole thing was being discussed here. It was also made known here as to what the views of the Agriculture Minister were. So far as the final shape is concerned, as I just now submitted, there is still time and all these things will be looked into.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : I am satisfied.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It hardly happens that a Member is satisfied. I am very happy, hon. Minister, that you have been able to satisfy him. Please try to do it with all the Members.

255. [*Transferred to the 23rd December, 1993*]

*256. [*The Questioner (Shri Rajubhai A.Parmar) was absent. For Answer vide col. ...infra.*]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mehta, you are walking in and walking out of the House ....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : I thought I won't come...(*Interruptions*)... There is a ban on the import of video and still camera....(*Interruptions*)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You should call the question..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Q. No. 257.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : Madam, my apologies. As there were too many questions, I must have mixed up the papers. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

उपसभापति : कैमरा आप के हाउस में नहीं है, इस लिए आपको पता नहीं लग रहा है [व्यवधान] श्री चिमनभाई मेहता, सवाल पछिए।

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sushilkumar Sambhajirao Shinde.